

after the extrusion step, applying a biasing force said force generated in a calibration zone which causes a set of grip jaws of said clamping devices to lie adjacent to each other; and

The process as recited in claim 9 further comprising the step of severing the clamping devices from said extruded length in desired widths;

Please cancel claim 30, without prejudice to the subject matter therein.

33. (New) The process for manufacturing clamping devices as recited in claim 12, wherein said biasing force is generated by spreading apart a pincer portion of said clamping devices.

34. (New) The process for manufacturing clamping devices as recited in claim 12, wherein said biasing force is generated by pressing half-profiles of said clamping devices.

35. (New) The process for manufacturing as recited in claim 12, wherein latching profiles which fit into each other are extruded to form a snap connection between half-profiles in a transition area.

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the Office Action of December 2, 2002. Claims 12 and 33-35 remain pending in the application. Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form and claim 33 corresponds to the limitation of former claim 10, claim 34 corresponds to the limitation of former claim 11 and claim 35 corresponds to the limitation of former claim 13. Claim 12 is now a generic linking claim.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

The 35 U.S.C. 112¶ 2 rejection of claims 4, 5, 22 and 23 is now moot in light of their cancellation. The applicant expressly reserves the right to address this issue raised by the examiner in a supplemental remarks or a continuing application

The 35 U.S.C. 112 ¶ 1 rejection of claims 5 and 23 is moot in light of their cancellation. However, the applicant expressly reserves the right to address this issue raised by the